

This small works was located just south of Coalport GWR station. It was not in existence in 1882 with the first reference being in 1889 when Enoch Hopley was advertising a large stock of drain pipes for sale.<sup>1</sup> Enoch Hopley had been involved in the works at Coalford since the 1860s first by himself and then in a partnership with his brother Thomas until around 1881. In 1881, he was living at Norton Cottage Stockton and farming 20 acres also describing himself as a tile merchant. The years later Enoch (62) was living at Severn View, Sutton Bank on the opposite side of the Severn from the works and described himself as a Tile Manufacturer.

The works only lasted for a short time and in 1896 the buildings, one kiln and the plant were put up for sale.<sup>2</sup> In 1901 Enoch (72) described himself as a retired Brick and roof tile manufacturer living on Park Street Madeley and in December the same year he was still trying to sell the works as a going concern. The plant and stock in trade were put up for auction on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1901 by Paterson & Son of Wellington on behalf of Enoch:

comprising capital 12-h.p. horizontal steam engine (in good order), steam boiler (22ft long by 4ft diameter), brick making machine (for power, with cutting off tables, &c complete), brick press, hand pipe machine (with dies and cutters &c complete, for two to six-inch pipes), one horse pug mill, brick and other moulds, about 4,200 draining pipes (2 ½in. and 4in.), 320 6in pipes and junctions, 3,500 pressed and common red bricks, 7000 blue return bevel bricks, 1,250 brown roofing tiles and hips, small quantity of 6in. quarries, fire squares &c.; two framed and tiled roofs (80ft. by 22ft. and 30ft by 26ft.), 12 deal battens (7in by 2½in., 268ft), sundry deal planks 2 brick barrows, step ladder, quantity of iron and other items.<sup>3</sup>

The 1902 OS map shows the works as disused and given this was a time of depression in the building industry it is unlikely. The source of clay must have obtained been by mining adjacent to the works as the OS map shows two air shafts at the works.

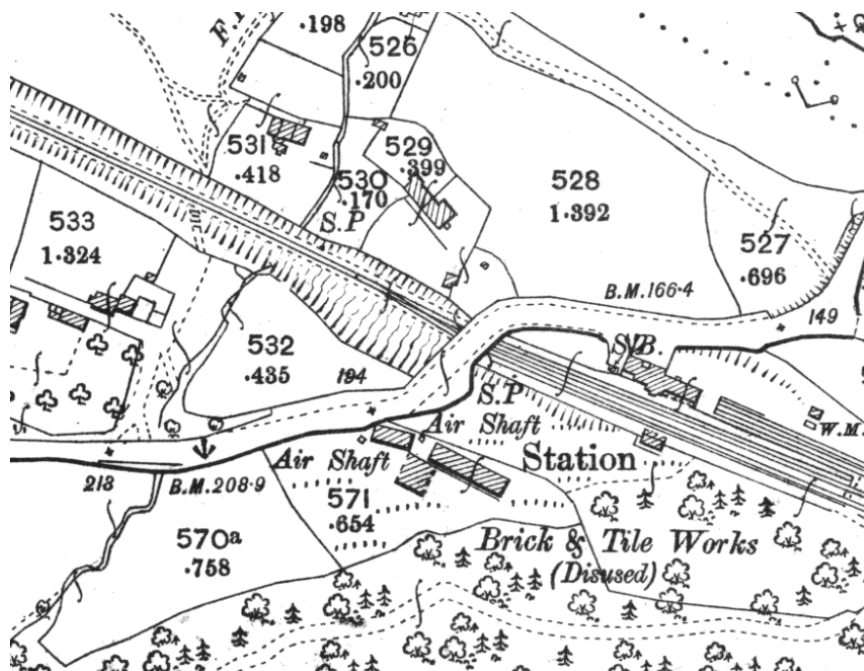


Figure 1. 1902 25" OS Map Shropshire LI.3. The 30ft by 26ft building is to the west and the 80ft by 22ft building is to the east. South of these is a rectangular building which may be the kiln.

<sup>1</sup> Bridgnorth Journal 14<sup>th</sup> December 1889.

<sup>2</sup> Wellington Journal 18<sup>th</sup> April 1896.

<sup>3</sup> Wellington Journal 14<sup>th</sup> December 1901.

Coalport Brick, Tile and Pipeworks SJ 7003 0198

In 1911 Enoch was widowed and had moved to 69 New Street Wellington where he is listed as a retired Tile merchant and was boarding with Thomas Trevor who was an ale and Stout Merchant. He died in 1912 aged 84. It is unlikely that it ever operated again however the 1927 OS map shows some remnants of the buildings.

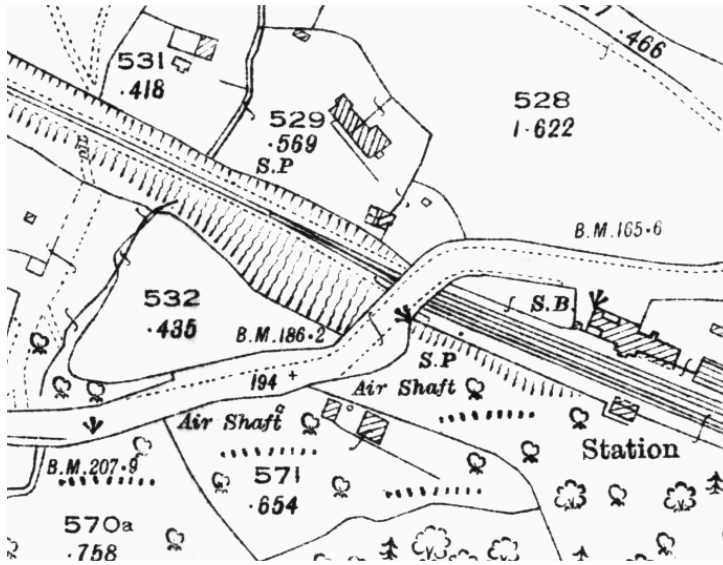


Figure 2. 1902 25" OS Map Shropshire LI.3. possibly showing the kiln and path of the eastern building still standing